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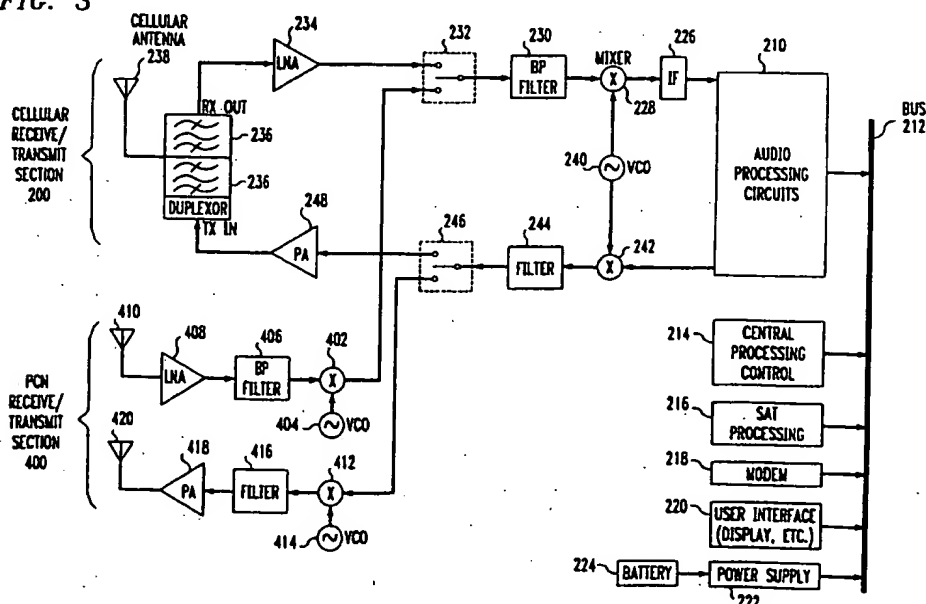
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(54) Radiotelephone transceiver operative over more than one frequency range

(57) A radiotelephone wireless communication apparatus is operative in both a first radiotelephone communication system including a first base station transmitting radiotelephone signals at a first band of frequencies and in a second radiotelephone communication system including a second base station transmitting radiotelephone signals at a second band of frequencies

different in frequency from the first band of frequencies. The wireless radiotelephone communication apparatus has a common baseband circuitry (210,212,214,216,218,220,222,224) for operating with the first and second base stations along with first and second RF circuits, (200,400), to communicate with each of these same base stations.

FIG. 3

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Description

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to wireless communication systems and, more particularly, to radiotelephone handsets operative over more than one frequency range.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Radiotelephones are used in a variety of wireless communications systems which may involve various air interface systems that have differing operating frequencies. These air interface systems include cellular radiotelephone systems and cordless telephone systems, as well as, other numerous wireless telephone system arrangements, such as, Personal Communication Networks (PCN) and services. Each of these arrangements requires a transceiver designed to operate in the frequency range, unique to that particular communication system. A radiotelephone handset is generally capable of operating in only one environment (i.e. cellular, cordless). Thus, to provide wireless communication services which operate across systems with varied interfaces having differing operating frequencies, requires a separate transceiver for each communication system.

Prior approaches to extend the use of a radiotelephone transceiver into more than one wireless communication system have included the joining of two separate radiotelephone handset units into one unitary package, with each handset operative in only one of the available wireless communication system frequency ranges. However, operation in a particular air interface system frequency range, with such an arrangement, is accomplished by switching from one unit to the other independent unit, as desired, so that only one of these independent handset units is in use at any time. Such an arrangement is described in U. S. Patent 4,989,230 which discloses a cellular/cordless telephone in which separate cellular and cordless transceivers are joined together in a single package.

Another approach to extend the use of a radiotelephone into more than one wireless communication system frequency range uses a pre-selected frequency within one of the wireless communication ranges to process signals, which is converted to an intermediate frequency within the second wireless communication frequency range for transmission to or reception from a base station. The term "process signals" refers to the forwarding of signals to or from the conversion and demodulation baseband circuitry of the communication device. As a specific example, received signals in one operational frequency band are heterodyned to produce a signal at a selected frequency in an inactive channel of another operational frequency band. Similarly, signals

being transmitted can be heterodyned and translated in frequency from an inactive channel in one operational frequency band to an active channel for propagation in another operational frequency band. However, such an arrangement is not effective because signals propagated at frequencies nearby (within 100 kHz) to the pre-selected frequency used to process signals can overlap each other, interfering with the proper operation of the transceiver due to the intermixing of signals at more than one frequency.

Thus, it would be useful for a wireless radiotelephone to be operable over more than one frequency range in more than one interface environment without signal overlapping, which interferes with the proper operation of the handset.

Summary

A wireless radiotelephone communication apparatus is operative in both a first radiotelephone communications system, including a first base station transmitting radio frequency signals at a first band of frequencies and in a second radiotelephone communication system including a second base station transmitting radiotelephone signals at a second band of frequencies different from the first band of frequencies. The radiotelephone communication apparatus has common conversion and demodulation/modulation baseband circuitry for operating with both the first base station and the second base station. The common baseband circuitry processes received radiotelephone signals from both of these base stations and processes signals generated by a user of the communication apparatus for transmission back to either of these base stations.

Radiotelephone signals received within the second band of frequencies are shifted to a band of frequencies substantially contiguous with the first band of frequencies. Radiotelephone signals to be transmitted within the second band of frequencies are shifted to the second band of frequencies from a band of frequencies substantially contiguous with the first band of frequencies.

A band of frequencies substantially contiguous with the first band of frequencies is used to process received and transmitted signals within the second band of frequencies into and out of the common baseband circuitry. The substantially contiguous band of frequencies includes a range of frequencies that are processable using the same baseband circuitry as for the first band of frequencies, but sufficiently removed to prevent the intermixing of signals between the first and contiguous bands of frequencies from interfering with the proper operation of the communication equipment.

The radiotelephone communication apparatus, in an illustrative embodiment according to the invention, includes first and second RF circuits, for communicating with the first and second base stations. The first RF circuit processes signals within the first band of frequencies for transmission to and from the first base station.

The second RF circuit processes signals within the second band of frequencies, which are different from the first band of frequencies, for transmission to and from the second base station. The second RF circuit also operates to shift signals received or to be transmitted within the second band of frequencies, to a band of frequencies substantially contiguous with a portion of the first band of frequencies. The band of frequencies substantially contiguous with a portion of the first band of frequencies includes a range of frequencies near the highest frequency of the first band of frequencies that are processable using the same baseband circuitry as for the first band of frequencies, but sufficiently removed to prevent the intermixing of signals between these bands of frequencies from interfering with each other. The common conversion and demodulation/modulation baseband circuitry of the radiotelephone operates with either the first band of frequencies or the band of frequencies shifted above, but substantially contiguous with a portion of the first band to process signals transmitted to and from both base stations.

All transmission and reception of signals is through separate antenna systems. Antennas for each frequency range are advantageously selected to efficiently receive signals in the first and second frequency bands for which they have lengths that are typically a fraction of the wavelength of a frequency contained within the first and second frequency band. Filter circuitry selectively interconnects each antenna to the first and second RF circuits and directs received signals to the appropriate one of the first and second RF circuits capable of handling the frequency of the received or transmitted communication signal.

Transmit power levels in both the first and second bands of operation are monitored and regulated by the base station supervisory sub-systems to deliver appropriate effective radiated power levels for proper RF link performance. Base station regulation of the transmit power level insures satisfactory end-to-end communication performance.

Other objects and features of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. It is to be understood, however, that the drawings are designed solely for purposes of illustration and not as a definition of the limits of the invention, for which reference should be made to the appended claims.

Brief Description of the Drawing

FIG. 1 is a schematic of a wireless telephone system having two distinct interface systems widely separated in frequency;

FIG. 2 is a graph of representative frequency spectra which may support differing interface systems;

FIG. 3 is a schematic of a radiotelephone handset operative in the interface systems described in the

wireless radiotelephone systems depicted in FIGS. 1 & 2.

Detailed Description

An arrangement of wireless communications systems may involve a variety of individual air interfaces having differing operating frequencies and characteristics, such as is diagrammatically shown in FIG. 1. A public telephone network 20 is shown connected, via trunk 25, to mobile switching center (MSC) 30 which serves as the control center for a cellular telephone system. MSC 30 is connected to base station (BS) 35, via trunk 40. BS 35 includes the necessary control and radio transmission and reception equipment to provide supervisory, control and communication channels to a plurality of radiotelephone handsets typically served in the coverage area of the base station. In this scenario a user of radiotelephone device 45 communicates with the public land telephone network through a cellular telephone network.

Public telephone network 20 is also connected to a residential personal communications network (PCN) 50 base station, via trunk 55. Radiotelephone device 45 is also used to communicate with public telephone network 20 through PCN 50. As such, radiotelephone device 45 is capable of operating in multiple radiotelephone service areas. The mode of operation is determined by interactions of the handset with either BS 35 or PCN 50.

The serving area of a cellular network BS generally covers a geographical extent of several square miles, while the area of coverage for a PCN base station is measured in terms of square feet. The interfaces in the cellular and PCN areas are also different. One significant difference relates to the frequency bands utilized for communications. Typically, the cellular system uses frequencies in the 800 to 900 MHz frequency band range (i.e. a FCC licensed frequency range), while PCN systems operate at a frequency close to or within the 1850 MHz to 1990 MHz frequency range. The wide difference between these frequencies is an inhibiting factor in enabling a single radiotelephone device unit to function in both wireless coverage areas. Radiotelephone device 45 is adapted to be operable with each frequency band and allow communications to both, within a single circuit.

Suitable illustrative frequency ranges for efficient use with radiotelephone device 45, operative in both kinds of wireless systems and described below, are shown in the frequency graph of FIG. 2. A typical cellular base station, such as BS 35 may transmit at a band of frequencies encompassing a range of 870 MHz to 890 MHz 100 and receive communication signals within a band of frequencies from 825 MHz to 845 MHz 105. The portable radiotelephone device while operating in a cellular mode would transmit in the frequency band of 825 MHz to 845 MHz 110 with a corresponding receiving

band of frequencies from 870 MHz to 890 MHz 115.

PCN frequency bands of operation use a higher frequency band, significantly different from the present frequency band used by conventional wireless telephone systems. Portable radiotelephone device 45 is operative to receive radiotelephone signals at a band of frequencies from 1930 MHz to 1990 MHz 120 and transmit radiotelephone signals at a frequency band of 1850 MHz to 1910 MHz 125. The PCN base station unit is operative to transmit signals at a frequency band from 1930 MHz to 1990 MHz 130 and receive signals within the frequency band from 1850 MHz to 1910 MHz 135. These specified frequency bands are illustrative of advantageous frequency bands and are not intended to be limiting. Other frequency selections will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art.

A radiotelephone device, constructed to efficiently utilize the above described plurality of radio frequency band spectra, is shown in the schematic of FIG. 3. The radio telephone device, shown in block schematic, includes a cellular receive section (870-890 MHz) and transmit section (825-845 MHz) 200; and a PCN receive section (1930-1990 MHz) and transmit section (1850-1910 MHz) 400. The circuits for processing of baseband signals for cellular (wide area) and PCN (local) operation includes the audio processing circuit 210, which includes reception, transmission, input and output circuitry all coupled to an internal control, data, address bus 212. Also connected to the bus are a central processing control unit 214, comprising a microcomputer, a supervisory audio tone (SAT) processing circuit 216 for handling supervisory signals provided from the base stations and a modem 218 for handling digitally transmitted call set-up and control signals. A user interface and display 220 is also connected to the bus for allowing user voice intercom and control input and for providing status and operative information to the user. Power for the radiotelephone device is supplied by battery 224 whose output power is processed in power supply 222.

Audio processing circuit 210 accepts incoming signals from the output of receiving circuitry for either the cellular or PCN frequency ranges. This receiving circuitry, described below, converts incoming RF frequencies from either the first band of frequencies or the contiguous band of frequencies to intermediate frequencies, (IF), with a frequency range from 45 to 90 MHz, then audio processing circuit 210 demodulates these signals to produce a baseband signal. Audio processing circuit 210 is coupled to IF circuit 226, including an FM detector (not shown), which in turn is fed by the output of mixer 228. A reference voltage controlled oscillator 240 supplies the mixing frequency applied to mixer 228. Mixer 228 is connected to accept received signals from an appropriate band pass filter 230 which receives its input automatically through switch 232 via terminal "a" for cellular receive section 200 or via terminal "b" for PCN receive section 400. The front end of cellular receive sec-

tion 200 includes low noise amplifier (LNA) 234 connected to receive output through duplexer 236 from cellular antenna 238. The front end of PCN receive section 400 includes mixer 402 which down converts signals received in the PCN frequency band to frequencies shifted above but substantially contiguous with a portion of the cellular bands of frequencies utilized by cellular receive section 200, so that the same receiving circuitry is employed to process incoming RF signals in both frequency ranges. Reference voltage control oscillator 404 supplies the mixing frequency to mixer 402. Mixer 402 is connected to accept signals from band pass filter 406 which receives input through low noise amplifier 408 from PCN antenna 410.

Outgoing communication signals are produced from the baseband and modulated by audio processing circuit 210 to up-convert the baseband signal to IF frequencies. The IF frequency is fed to mixer 242 where the applied mixing frequency is supplied by voltage controlled oscillator 240 and the IF frequency is further up-converted to an RF frequency. Mixer 242 is connected to transmit the up-converted RF signals through an appropriate band pass filter 244 to switch 246 where the RF signals are routed through either cellular transmit section 200 or PCN transmit section 400.

Cellular transmit section 200 includes power amplifier (PA) 248, connected to receive input from switch 246. Cellular frequency signals are transmitted from PA 248 to duplexer 236 and out through antenna 238.

PCN transmit section 400 includes mixer 412 which up converts signals received from switch 246 at frequencies shifted above but substantially contiguous with a portion of the cellular bands of frequencies to the PCN frequency bands. Reference voltage control oscillator 414 supplies the mixing frequency to mixer 412. The output of mixer 412 is applied to band pass filter 416, for passing the signals at appropriate frequencies on to power amplifier 418. Power amplifier 418 is connected to antenna 420 where the amplified signal gets transmitted at the appropriate PCN frequency.

The control of the mobile radiotelephone device, in selecting the mode of operation, is determined by stored programs included in central processing control 214. These stored programs contribute to the differing radiotelephone handset operating mode capabilities and includes radiotelephone device initialization and call origination procedures to either PCN or cellular base stations.

The programs stored in central processing control 214 are standard for existing PCN or cellular wireless telephones and are designed to begin operation in a learn mode of operation. During the learn mode interval a base station, such as BS 35 and/or PCN 50 of FIG. 1, transmits a forward control message, which may be received by device 45 to be used in conjunction with that base station. In an illustrative example, an AMPS signaling process is used. Certain numeric fields of the transmitted forward control message instruct the device

to transmit both their full telephone number and their ESN (i.e., Electronic Serial Number) when originating or responding to a page. The telephone number and ESN are stored in the memory of central processing control 214 which supervises the devices' operation and are transmitted to the originating base station.

With completion of the learn mode, device 45 is available for service. BS 35 and PCN 50 now transmit overhead messages which are monitored by device 45. If the transmitted ID matches a servicing system identification number stored in the number assignment module (NAM) of central processing control 214, device 45 is activated and placed in a mode to receive and/or transmit within the operating band of frequencies used by the initiating transceiver. The learning mode of operation is to assure that call connections are made only with qualified handsets. This allows the implementation of fraud protection through security measures as presently used in conventional cellular systems. The device user originates a transmission by inputting a destination telephone number. Before transmissions to the destination number are allowed to begin, the base station reads the telephone number and ESN of device 45. If the telephone number and ESN are listed, the base station assigns the handset to a communication channel.

The operation of the radiotelephone transceiver may be explained by describing its functions in handling the voice and data signals in the various frequency ranges and modes of either cellular or PCN operation. With reference to FIG. 3, when the transceiver is connected to accept cellular frequency voice and data signals, switch 232 is automatically connected to terminal "a". Cellular antenna 238 is then coupled to the cellular filters which provide traditional duplex filtering and separation of RF signals from the received signals. In the instance of a received cellular telephone signal, the signal is transmitted via duplexer 236 to LNA 234. The output of LNA 234 is applied, via switch 232, automatically connected through the "a" terminal, to band pass filter 230. The output of band pass filter 230 is applied to mixer 228. Mixer 228 is activated by a cellular mixing frequency of 800 to 900 MHz supplied by voltage control oscillator 240. The output of the mixer is applied to IF circuit 226 which operates in the 85 MHz frequency range and supplies baseband signal output to audio processing circuits 210.

The transmission of an outgoing cellular radiotelephone signal begins with the application of a broadband signal to mixer 242. Mixer 242 is activated by a cellular mixing frequency of 800 to 900 MHz supplied by voltage control oscillator 240. The output of mixer 242 is applied to band pass filter 244. The output of band pass filter 244 is applied to switch 246. Signals to be transmitted at cellular frequencies are applied via switch 246, automatically connected to terminal "a", to power amplifier 248. The output of power amplifier 248 is transmitted to the output filter of duplexer 236. The output of duplexer 236 is coupled to cellular antenna 238.

Outgoing radiotelephone signals in the PCN band of frequencies are supplied from band pass filter 244 through switch 246, automatically connected to the "b" terminal, to mixer 412. The output of mixer 412 is activated by a PCN frequency of 1850 to 1990 MHz supplied by voltage control oscillator 414. The output of mixer 412 is applied via band pass filter 416 to power amplifier 418. The output from power amplifier 418 is then transmitted in the PCN band of frequencies through PCN antenna 420.

Incoming radiotelephone signals in the PCN band of frequencies are applied to LNA 408. The output of LNA 408 is applied to mixer 402, via band pass filter 406. The output of mixer 402 is activated by a frequency above but substantially contiguous with a portion of the frequencies of the cellular band of frequencies used by cellular receive/transmit section 200 and is supplied by voltage control oscillator 404. The band of frequencies above but substantially contiguous with a portion of the cellular band of frequencies used by cellular receive/transmit section 200 is a band of frequencies including those frequencies that are processable by the conversion and demodulation/modulation baseband circuitry, as for the cellular band of frequencies, and are also sufficiently removed from the highest frequency of the cellular band to prevent the intermixing of signals between the cellular and contiguous bands of frequencies from interfering with each other. The output of mixer 402 is applied to band pass filter 230 via switch 232, automatically connected to the terminal "b" position. The output of band pass filter 230 is processed as described above, for received cellular signals.

Variations of the invention will be readily thought of by those skilled in the art to include other air interface systems and other telecommunications interfaces that ultimately connect to the public telephone network.

Claims

1. A communication apparatus for receiving RF signals, comprising:

a receiver (238,410) for receiving an RF signal in a first band of frequencies and for receiving an RF signal in a second band of frequencies different from said first band of frequencies; a first converter (402) that shifts said RF signal in said second band of frequencies to a RF signal in a third band of frequencies substantially contiguous with a portion of said first band of frequencies; and a plurality of baseband circuits for processing said RF signal input from said first and third band of frequencies.

2. The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes a central

- processing unit (214) that enables reception of RF signals in said first or second band of frequencies.
3. The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes a second converter (228) that down-converts said RF signal from one of said first or said third band of frequencies to an intermediate frequency.. 5
 4. The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes a demodulator (210) that demodulates said intermediate frequency to a baseband frequency. 10
 5. A communication apparatus for transmitting RF signals, comprising: 15
 - a transmitter (238,420) for transmitting an RF signal in a first band of frequencies and an RF signal in a second band of frequencies different from said first band of frequencies; 20
 - a first converter (412) that shifts an RF signal in a third band of frequencies above but substantially contiguous with a portion of said first band of frequencies to an RF signal in said second band of frequencies; and 25
 - a plurality of baseband circuits for processing said RF signal outputted to said first and third bands of frequencies. 30
 6. The communication apparatus of claim 5, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes a central processing unit (214) that enables the transmission of RF signals in said first or second band of frequencies. 35
 7. The communication apparatus of claim 5, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes a second converter (242) that up-converts an intermediate frequency to one of said first or said third band of frequencies. 40
 8. The communication apparatus of claim 5, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes a modulator (210) that modulates a baseband frequency to said intermediate frequency. 45
 9. A communication apparatus for receiving and transmitting RF signals, comprising: 50
 - a transceiver (200,400) for receiving and transmitting an RF signal in a first band of frequencies and for receiving and transmitting an RF signal in a second band of frequencies different from said first band of frequencies; 55
 - a first converter (402) that shifts said RF signal received from said transceiver in said second band of frequencies to an RF signal in a third band of frequencies, substantially contiguous with a portion of said first band of frequencies; and
 - a second converter (412) that shifts an RF signal in said third band of frequencies, substantially contiguous with a portion of said first band of frequencies, to an RF signal to be transmitted by said transceiver in said second band of frequencies.
 10. The communication apparatus of claim 9, wherein a plurality of baseband circuits processes said RF signal input from or outputted to said first and third bands of frequencies.
 11. The communication apparatus of claim 10, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes a central processing unit (214) that enables the reception and transmission of RF signals in said first or second band of frequencies.
 12. The communication apparatus of claim 10, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes an up-converter (242) that converts an intermediate frequency to one of said first or said third band of frequencies.
 13. The communication apparatus of claim 10, wherein said plurality of baseband circuits includes a down-converter (228) that converts one of said first or said third band of frequencies to an intermediate frequency.
 14. The method of operating in a communication network involving more than one frequency band comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an RF signal in one of a first band of frequencies and a second band of frequencies, said second band of frequencies different from said first band of frequencies;
 - wherein said RF signal received in said second band of frequencies is shifted to an RF signal in a third band of frequencies, substantially contiguous with a portion of said first band of frequencies; and
 - transmitting an RF signal in one of said first band of frequencies and said second band of frequencies;
 - wherein said RF signal transmitted in said second band of frequencies was shifted from said third band of frequencies.
 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of up-converting an intermediate frequency to said RF signal in one of said first and said third band of frequencies.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of modulating a baseband frequency to said intermediate frequency.

17. A method of operating in a communication network 5 involving more than one frequency band, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of RF signals in one of a
first band of frequencies and a second band of 10
frequencies, said second band of frequencies
different from said first band of frequencies;
wherein said plurality of RF signals received in
said second band of frequencies are shifted to
a plurality of RF signals in a third band of fre- 15
quencies, substantially contiguous with a por-
tion of said first band of frequencies; and
transmitting a plurality of RF signals in one of
said first band of frequencies and said second
band of frequencies; 20
wherein said plurality of RF signals transmitted
in said second band of frequencies were shifted
from said third band of frequencies.

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FIG. 1

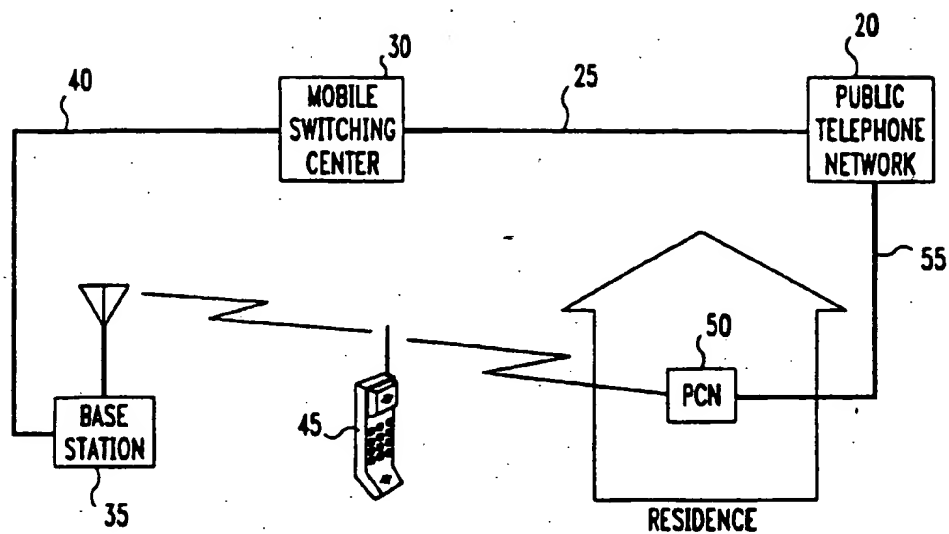


FIG. 2

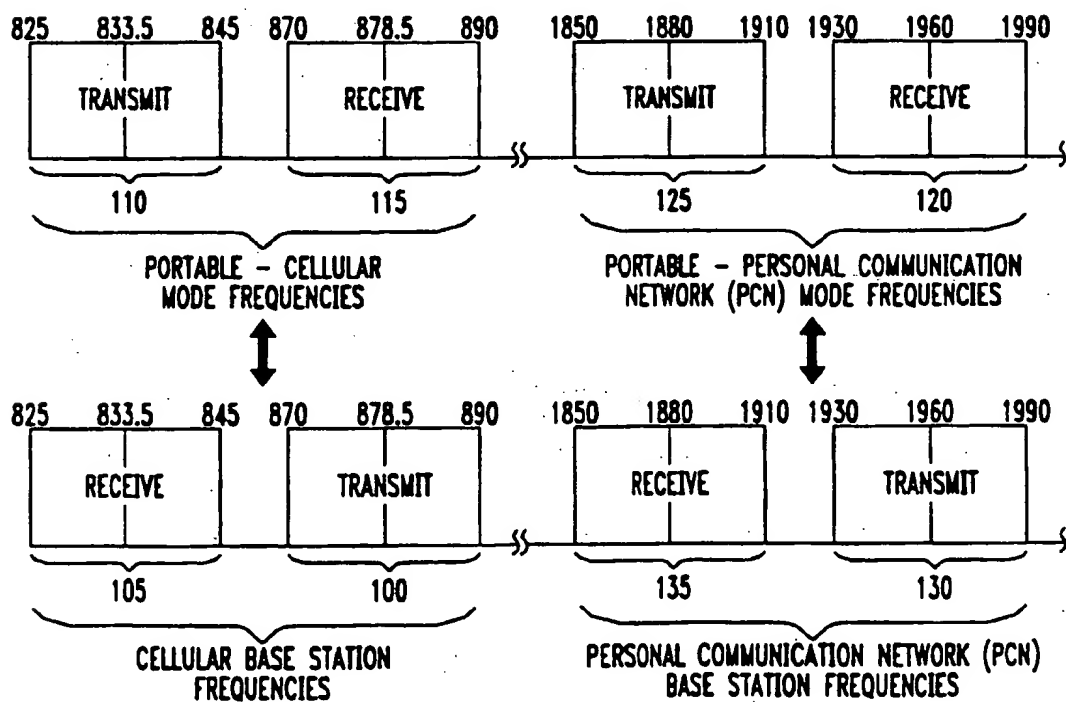
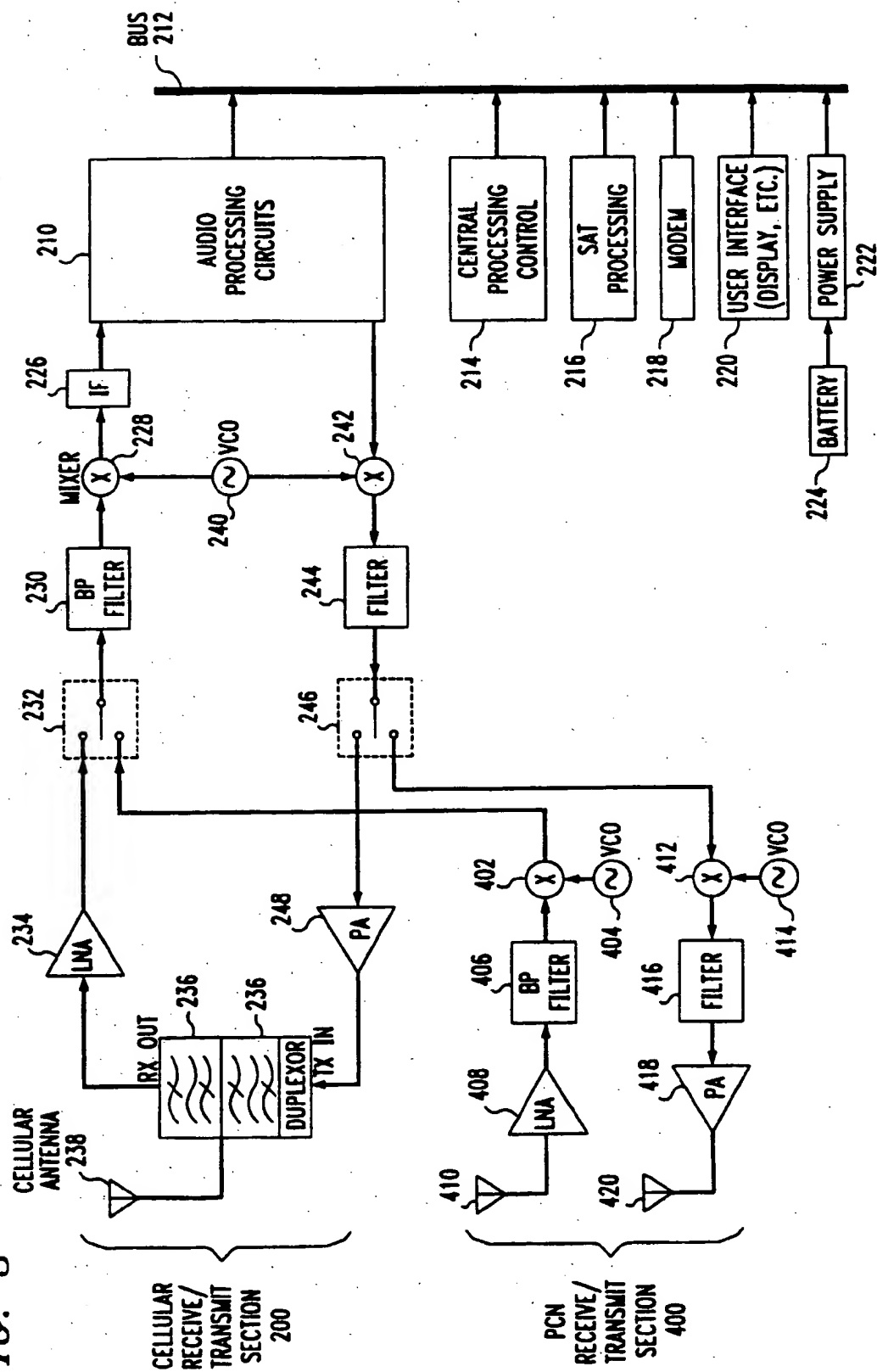
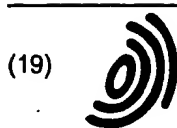


FIG. 3





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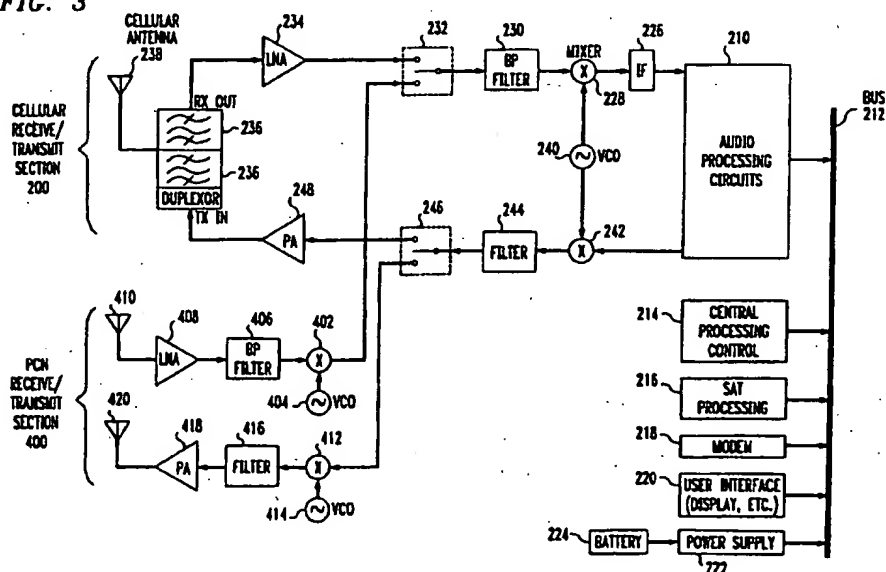
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(54) Radiotelephone transceiver operative over more than one frequency range

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different in frequency from the first band of frequencies. The wireless radiotelephone communication apparatus has a common baseband circuitry (210,212,214,216,218,220,222,224) for operating with the first and second base stations along with first and second RF circuits, (200,400), to communicate with each of these same base stations.

FIG. 3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 96 30 8739

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			H04B H04Q
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 November 1999	Examiner Pham, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 96 30 8739

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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26-11-1999

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